6/5/69

Dear Sylvia,

Frankly, I welcome the quiet to which you allude in your note of the first. We now need it. It provides fewer interruptions in the work that must be done and it lets the current works of sycophancy fall, as they should, in my opinion, flat on their faces. It also permits those who have not really been helpful to slip away, with least embarrassment. About this I am pleased, not discouraged. However, about the state of the country, which really dominates the state of the world, as I see that, we are in total accord. It gets closer to a kind of fascism. Imagine even considering appointing an Otepka, and a "security check" that fails to disclose his connections. Among those not made public when his closeness to Carto was publicized (he found Carto a stalwart believer in decomracy although he is an open Hitlerian) is Carto's relationship with Admiral Crommelin, the notorious anti-Semmite and General Del Valle (retired, Marines), both of whom have made cash contributions to the American Nazi Party, as I learned in my own investigations for COUP D'ETAT.

I have heard nothing from or about Garrison in a long time. Right after the trial someone not directly connected with him said he also had heard that Garrison is writing a book. He is nutty enough to do it, but I have no personal knowledge either way. My hunch is that his main focus is on re-election. The New Orleans papers of several days ago reported a massive federal investigation of "local" Mafia activity exactly coinciding with the close of the campaign, a truly remarkable coincidence. This will not be N.O., although it will be made to seem that way to smear him. It will be the adjacent parish, Jefferson, where gambling, prostitution, etc, are among the more profitable operations. That, however, is not only outside Garrison's jurisdiction but is, in itself, a kind of tribute to him, for he did go after vice as soon as he became DA and did drive all the organized vice he could locate out of his jurisdiction. On the other hand, I have no doubt that there is much Mafia money working in his jurisdiction, but within the law in the various legitimate businesses in which it has been invested. Deplorable as this may be, it would be improper for him to try and do anything about legitimate business, even if he were in a position to. Hoke May told me the people financing Aaron Kohn's MCC are those in competitionxwith the legitimate Mafia holdings. In any event, I'll be happier if your information is wrong, if he is not writing a book. I'd much prefer not to write LEMMING. There is more important work to be done. He is a fine writer, but writing takes himx a long time. He writes even releases laboriously, in longhand.And he hones each word. If this makes for good writing, it also takes a long time.

Your other report I hope is true. I hope Lane is being sued. I doubt if even you have plumbed the abyss of his sincere corruption, his constitutional dishonesty. He got $40,000 from BBC, which certainly should have gone to the fellow who I'd heard had put up so much dough. Nobody has ever done anything about Mark's dishonesty ( I may yet), and he expects no one ever will. He is in a position to pay his debts and he should. Instead, the money stuck. There was a sizeable income from the movie. The more completely he deserts us the better off we are.

I have been working on a number of things, some necessary and personal (and overdue) and others essentially digressions but also necessary. I have been trying to help John Nichols in his suit, for which he is not as well prepared as he might be and may not be the best legal approach. I have just finished the autopsy on the governments papers for him and have given him a clear case of federal perjury and much deception of the court in so doing. It remains to be seen how tough his lawyer is. John asked me to stop off last May and speak to a small group he gathered. There were several lawyers and I think a judge among them. Perhaps one is his lawyer. I hope so.

Bernabei came here at my invitation so we could do some work on his theories about the cartridges. He is very bright and quite nice. I like him. He has spent much time on this. He is a gun buff, competent. In the course of checking out what the government so openly avoided, such things as the dents on the shells (Thompson is all wrong) we have been able to duplicate some of them in firing one of the Mannlicher-Carcanos, mine, but not with Dick's. I was able to arrange the use of a police range and a genuine expert. He did it for us. However, we have also come accross some perhaps more interesting things in other aspects. I have always been interested in Frazier's testimony that there were no marks on the back end of the cases, known as the "head". I think his actual words were that he noted none. They must be there, because of a phenomonon known as "blowback". Explosion in the chamber of that rifle, to propel the bullet, is enormous, 37,000 pounds per square inch. It is so great that one of the things we did is prove that the explosion its elf is enough to smooth out the dents in the cases. We dented them by hand, fored the bullets, and found the cases restored to their original shapes. The explosive force is distributed in every direction. The slack is toward the back. It blows back, hence the term, with great force, and the soft copper does pick up the imperfections of the face of the bolt. Well, I also got a fine and conscientious photographer, fortunately also a gun buff, and we went to the Archives, where I'd made arrangement for us to take our own pictures. They tried to prevent this but backed off. There are marks on the shells where Frazier said there weren't, and we may have nailed him in a very bad distortion of the evidence he offered the Commission. He may have manufactured it. We have more checking to do before we can make the charge. But, it takes time, costs money, and is slow. If you look at the pictures he gave the Commission, Ex 544, I think, and a few others near it, you will find most of the head of the cartridges eliminated, the dofge being his concentration on the tiny part that is the primer. We have excellent pictures of the entire head, of the bolt face, etc. Dick may or may not be doing anything with this, but I will be when I get back to AGENT OSWALD.

And, I've just finished making the typographical corrections in COUP D'ETAT, that is, on the master. I now do everything except the actual printing and the covers myself. I make up the books, etc. As soon as I clean up the accumulated mail and filing I'll write the book-length addition I have already researched. I abhor interruptions when I write. You have an idea of the pace and concentration with which I do write. My wife has been working, requiring that I interrupt the morning to take her there and the afternoon to bring her home. That was to have ended 4/15, actually didn't end until yesterday. She'll have but an occasional day now. So, the part of each day I have decided I must spend in physical exercise will not be my only interruption and I plan to resume writing very soon. Then I have additions to PMIII, some done. This will be by far the largest book on the subject, unless we consider all three parts of PM as one. It is now, exclusive of appendix (which is very large) about 215,000 words). I am hopeful if I can get it printed it will attract a few allies to us.

So, your letter came at the right time. I had out several things in an envelope to send you when I got around to writing. I have heard nothing further from the Times. I am not going to drop it, although the chances of a libel action may be slim. That was Epstein's intent. I have not bought "Counterplot" because I cannot afford it, but I think if he had said these things in it someone would have told me. I also think Asher would have edited much of it out. Someday soon, if not already, it will be remaindered and I'll get a copy then.

Best regards,